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Security Information

ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV MANEUVERING OVER TRIESTE

- I. Yugoslavia and Italy have reverted to mutually unacceptable positions in Trieste dispute.
 - A. Tito's 6 September proposal would deny Italy any part of the disputed territory.
 - B. Italy's 13 September plebiscite proposal is a stacked deck which would result in return of the territory to Italy.
 1. Heavily populated coastal cities, particularly Trieste, are predominantly Italian.
 2. Sparsely populated hinterland is largely Slovene.
- II. Tito believes he is leading from strength at this moment.
 - A. He possesses Zone B.

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- B. Western powers have indicated that Yugoslav military collaboration is of paramount importance.
 - C. Tito foresees his future position being weakened by ostensible lessening of the Soviet threat.
- III. Italy's immediate objective is de facto occupation of Zone A.
- A. Such an "interim" solution would be of considerable political advantage at home.
 - B. It would enable Italy to bargain with Tito on equal terms.
 - C. Conversely, domestic political situation in August impelled the Italian premier to take a strong stand on Trieste.
 - D. Italian government threatens to use the Trieste issue as an excuse for delaying ratification of EDC and limiting participation in NATO.

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- IV. Tito has promised strong measures if Italy occupies Zone A.
- A. Yugoslavia would react by formally annexing Zone B.
 - B. Yugoslavia might move troops to Italian border.
 - 1. It has not yet moved troops.
 - 2. Tito has twice stated he will not in the present situation.
- V. Italy has deployed a few forces.
- A. About 4,000 troops garrisoned in the border area have been deployed on a semi-alert status.
 - B. One cruiser and two destroyers were despatched to Venice.
 - C. These troops are NATO-assigned and the ships MDAP equipped.
- VI. The threat of riots in Trieste city has so far been avoided.

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VII. Public speeches on both sides leave no
departure point for new negotiations.

A. Both sides intend to maneuver US
into making a decision now which
will favor their respective positions.

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Tripartite Declaration on Trieste - 20 March 1948

"The Governments of the United States, United
Kingdom and France have proposed to the Governments
of the Soviet Union and Italy that those Governments
join in agreement on an additional protocol to the
treaty of peace with Italy which would place the
Free Territory of Trieste once more under Italian
sovereignty."

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